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MARCH 30, 2001

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Jane Henry, FDA Commissioner
5639 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, Md. 20852

RE: Docket No.00N-1396, and OOD-1598

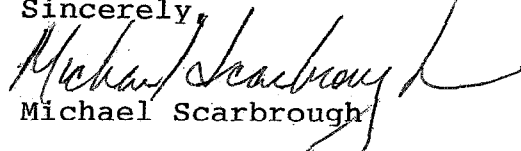
Dear FDA,

I am outraged by your new policies on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Despite overwhelming consumer demand, your agency still fails to require safety testing and mandatory labeling for GE foods. Your notification policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks to GE foods. You should be aware that the foods could be toxic, could cause allergic reactions, could have lower nutritional value, could compromise immune responses in consumers, and could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

I am also greatly opposed to your "voluntary labeling" policy which denies consumers a basic right to know. Without mandatory labeling neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be denied the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these foods prove hazardous.

Your proposed rules ignore serious concerns, and appear to be a decision made to the convenience industry at the expense of public health and the environment. I will not accept your attempt to make me a guinea pig of these untested foods and I trust that you will take my concern into SERIOUS consideration.

Sincerely,


Michael Scarbrough

00N 1396

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Michael S. S. S. S.
PO Box 343
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TO: (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE ()

John Henry Pitt Commissioner
5630 Franklin Ave
Room 1061 NFA-305
Rochester, NY 14623

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